

Connections

April 2010

MoDOT Implements Further Cost Saving Measures

Workforce to be Reduced by Approximately 400; No Layoffs Planned

MoDOT Director Pete Rahn announced dramatic cost savings measures and a plan to keep major highways in good condition and to improve smaller highways as less funding is available for new construction. The department will save \$203 million over the next five years by cutting costs and eliminating 400 salaried positions without layoffs by June 30, 2013.

MoDOT's construction program is on a steep decline due to stagnant state revenues, uncertain federal funding, rising employee benefit costs and no more money coming from Amendment 3 mandated bonds. The situation has caused MoDOT to set a new direction for the next five years, which was outlined by Rahn at the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission meeting on March 10.

The plan calls for a focus on keeping the existing transportation system in good condition and for meeting all commitments made in the five-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

"MoDOT has made great strides in improving Missouri's transportation system and rebuilding trust with the people we serve, but financial uncertainties are threatening the progress we've made over the past five years," said Rahn. "Despite this challenge, we are committed to providing a smooth and safe ride on our highways and delivering improvements on time and under budget."

Currently, highway fatalities are at their lowest level since 1950. Eighty-six percent of major roads are in good condition. Eighty-nine percent of Missourians say they trust MoDOT to meet its commitments and overall customer satisfaction is at 85 percent.



To maintain the quality and safety of the transportation system and continue to build trust and confidence with the public, MoDOT will implement several strategies.

"I have been saying for quite some time that transportation funding is headed over a cliff," Rahn said. "Now

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Director Pete Rahn Resigns

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission announced the resignation of Pete Rahn as director of the Missouri Department of Transportation. Rahn's resignation is effective April 23, 2010.

"It's with a very heavy heart that we have accepted Pete's resignation," said Rudy Farber, chairman of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. "We want to thank him for his outstanding service to Missouri and certainly wish him well in his new career and in having more quality time to spend with his family."

The Commission will undertake a national search for Rahn's replacement.

"MoDOT is a tremendous organization filled with talented and dedicated employees," Rahn said. "I feel very fortunate I have been allowed to associate with such exceptional people."

Rahn will be assuming a position of Senior Vice President with HNTB, a Kansas City-based engineering firm. He will lead HNTB's national transportation practice.

"I am excited about the opportunity to take on the very challenging role being offered to me by HNTB," Rahn said.

Kevin Keith Selected as MoDOT's Interim Director

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission has selected Chief Engineer Kevin Keith to serve as interim director for MoDOT effective April 23, 2010. Keith will serve until a permanent director is selected following a national search that could take several months.

"I am thrilled to accept this new responsibility," Keith said. "I have been with MoDOT for more than 25 years and I know what great people work here. I am committed to the department's current direction and will hand the new director the reins of a great organization."



"Kevin's vast knowledge and experience make him an excellent choice to lead the department," Commission Chairman Rudy Farber said. "His steady hand

at the helm will allow us to conduct a comprehensive, national search for the next director of MoDOT."

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Respect. Honor. Remember.

by Sandra Hentges

In April of 2009, a memorial for MoDOT workers who have lost their lives in the line of duty was just names on a list.

This April, the Transportation Employees Association of Missouri is nearly halfway to their goal of raising \$94,937 to build a memorial in Jefferson City on the Capitol grounds. They have raised \$41,000 and change.

“We want it to be a real tribute to the people who gave their lives,” said Archie Daily, president of the Transportation Employees Association of Missouri.

The MoDOT employees, association officers and district chapters of TEAM across the state have been raising funds through various activities including a motorcycle ride and rally since last March.

Last month, they added a new way for MoDOT employees to contribute to the fund via electronic payroll contributions. MoDOT employees can find the form on the Intranet under the Controller’s Division at the Forms tab. A sign-up form is also included in this issue of Connections if you’d like to fill it out and send it in through your payroll representative.

The proposed memorial is intended to be placed on the Capitol grounds just to the west of the main entrance to MoDOT’s Central Office on Capitol Avenue. However, the site has not yet been approved by the Second Capitol

Commission, a group of legislators that oversee the Capitol facilities and grounds.

“We met with them last fall and showed them the proposed design,” said Daily, “but they have not yet given us approval to build the memorial in the spot we requested.” The association officers are planning to meet with the commission again soon.

The proposed design includes a black granite obelisk in the center with three black granite panels surrounding it in a triangular formation. Each panel would feature a single word at the top - RESPECT, HONOR, and REMEMBER - and depict MoDOT workers through engraved photographs. Red granite pillars would flank the panels and each of the three sides would have a black granite bench placed under it featuring the MoDOT logo. The panels would also list the names of the fallen workers at the bottom. The entire nine-foot tall monument would rest on a 35-foot triangle-shaped plaza made from gray stone pavers.

The drawings below show an artist’s rendering of the memorial. A display including the drawings and samples of the materials to be used can be found in the main lobby of MoDOT’s Central Office in Jefferson City.

If you have questions or comments on the memorial or making a donation, please contact Archie Daily at 417-880-4207 or everyday@getgoin.net.



The proposed design includes a black granite obelisk in the center with three black granite panels featuring RESPECT, HONOR, REMEMBER. Red granite pillars flank the panels and each of the three sides would have a black granite bench placed under it featuring the MoDOT logo. The drawing located upper right shows an overhead view.

How to Change a Life

Missouri Mentoring Initiative Makes a Difference

David Williams has seen the lives of children changed for the better.

Williams, a senior human resource specialist with the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division, is one of several MoDOT employees who participate in the Missouri Mentoring Initiative. The program gives employees the opportunity to mentor a primary or secondary student in Missouri public schools, and openings are available.

Established by Gov. Matt Blunt in 2007, the program allows up to 300 full-time employees of the state of Missouri to mentor for one hour per week of paid approved work, up to 40 hours each year.

The program makes positive impacts on a student’s life, especially those students who don’t have a positive male role model in the home or who may have a negative outlook about their future.

“I’m inspired every time I see a student achieve that which he thought was

impossible. That inspiration gives me hope for the future, our community, and our posterity,” said Williams.

The MMI partners with the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization for this program. State employees become a BBBS volunteer and mentor a “little brother or little sister.”

The Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division is responsible for coordinating MoDOT’s efforts with the program, including working with interested employees, promoting the initiative, and tracking and reporting on participation.

Still not sure if the program is for you? Williams has seen the positive impacts.

“The Missouri Mentoring Initiative provides the opportunity to change a life,” said Williams.

For more information on the program and to complete an application, visit <http://wwwwi/intranet/eo/mentoring/MissouriMentoringInitiative.htm>.

Amtrak on Time

All Aboard!

Since November 2009, and for the first time in history, Amtrak and MoDOT can announce 100 percent on-time performances for Missouri River Runner trains connecting Kansas City and St. Louis. This has been made possible due to rail improvements made just west of California, Mo.

Check out the video “Amtrak on Time” on MoDOT’s YouTube site to visit



with passengers and long-time Amtrak users who have seen instant benefits, and learn about how ridership has dramatically increased with the positive changes. Find the video at www.YouTube.com/modotvideo.

Cost Saving Measures

continued from page 1

we are forced to make tough decisions that will make MoDOT smaller and change the way we do business."

MoDOT will save \$81 million over the next five years by reducing the size of its workforce and work space. By June 30, 2013, there will be 400 fewer positions. This reduction will not be achieved through layoffs, but rather by immediately instituting a hiring freeze on 75 percent of positions that become vacant and by making sure the right people are in the right jobs. MoDOT will also reduce the number of offices and buildings it owns.

MoDOT will save another \$122 million over the next five years by cutting costs. The department will reduce spending

on vehicles, buildings and other capital improvements, information technologies and materials inventory. Other reductions will be more visible to the public, such as less mowing, litter pickup and sign replacement. MoDOT will also find a less expensive way to do striping, reduce the use of consultants and use shorter-term pavement treatments.

"These actions are not taken lightly, but they are necessary," Rahn said. "MoDOT will rise to the challenge."

A video of Director Pete Rahn's full presentation to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission is available at <http://www.modot.org/>.

For Work Zone Awareness Month, we asked employees

“What Would You Most Like to Tell a Driver in a Work Zone?”

John Avers, Land Survey Supervisor, District 8:

"When mistakes are made while working or driving in a work zone, people die. Don't make a mistake in a work zone."



John Avers

Ann Wink, Maintenance Worker, District 9:



Ann Wink

"I'd tell them to remember that it's not just dad's out there. It's mom's too. Slow down."

Ken Jenkins, Regional Maintenance Supervisor for the Ballas Maintenance Building, District 6:

"In work zones, MoDOT workers are only as safe as the driver behind the wheel. Safety starts with both the motorists and highway workers. Everyone has to play their part when it comes to work zones, so we can work together to ensure safety on Missouri's roads."



Ken Jenkins

"Slow down, don't stop."
"Don't kill us."
"Leave additional room between you and the vehicle in front of you to see upcoming people and equipment."
"Don't endanger our lives while we're out here trying to make your life safer."

Ronnie Calvin, supervisor of the Bowling Green Maintenance Facility, District 3:

"Nearly all of us at the building are parents and husbands, and we all work on high traffic routes. We all have families who love us and would like to see



Ronnie Calvin

us come home the same way we left for work that morning. As employees, we need to ALL take work zone awareness as a priority. And to any driver, I would ask that

you slow down in work zones; a few minutes of your time could add years to someone else's time."

Murray Arndt, Intermediate Maintenance Worker, District 2:

"I would like to remind motorists that we are working for them, our customers the taxpayers, to make our roads better."



Murray Arndt

Brad Watkins, Intermediate Construction Inspector, District 2:

"The safety of the traveling public is taken very seriously at MoDOT. The



Brad Watkins

safety of MoDOT workers is taken very seriously as well. Expect the unexpected by being attentive to your surroundings while driving. Try to minimize distractions such as using your mobile phone. Obey all posted speed limits and stay alert. Most importantly, be patient."

Ray Waters, Maintenance Worker (Kewanee Shed), District 10:

"We do our best to stay aware of our surroundings and take safety precautions, but drivers also play



Ray Waters

an important role in work zone safety. Drivers need to avoid distractions, pay attention and slow down. I am sure that no one wants to be the reason why we can't return home to our families at the end of the day."

Jerry Goodman, Bridge Maintenance Superintendent, Central Office:



Jerry Goodman

"Put the distractions away, pay attention to the signs, slow down and drive safe."

Sonya A. Henson, Senior Traffic Specialist, District 4:

"Slow down and pay attention to your surroundings."



Sonya Henson

Automatic Payroll Contributions

MoDOT employees can now designate automatic payroll contributions to the Fallen Workers' Memorial, being sponsored by the Missouri Transportation Employee Association. Now making a contribution couldn't get any easier! Employees can just print and fill out the "Fallen Worker Memorial Payroll Deduction" form at this link, <http://www.intranet/ct/forms.htm>. The form can then be turned in to your payroll representative. The Transportation Employees Association is not a charitable organization (501(c)(3)) for income tax purposes; it is an employee association (501(c)(6)). Thank you for your support!

Employee full name: _____

Last Four Digits of SSN: _____

Employee Phone: _____

Pay Period Amount x Number of Pay Periods = Total Contribution

Beginning Check Date: _____

Ending Check Date: _____

I hereby authorize a deduction from my semi-monthly pay in the amount indicated above to be paid to Transportation Employees Association of Missouri to be used for the Fallen Worker Memorial.

Employee Signature: _____

Date: _____

1. Enter employee full name (first name, middle initial, last name), last four digits of social security number and phone number.
2. Enter the amount to be deducted each pay period, the number of pay periods for the deduction and the total contribution.
3. Enter the first and the last check dates for the deduction.
4. Sign and date the form. Mail completed form to your district or division payroll representative.

Save the Date!

Second Annual Ride for Remembrance



June 12, 2010

Motorcycle riders from around the state will ride to Jefferson City in honor of MoDOT's fallen workers.

Proceeds Benefit the Fallen Workers' Memorial.

For more information, contact:

Kaye Stacy Steve Brown Dan Weaver
573-751-7187 573-751-9247 573-346-3053

Meet Your Commissioners



This month, we’re learning more about Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Lloyd J. Carmichael.

Q: Please tell us a little about your background and/or career.

A: I grew up in the Ozarks, then attended high school and college in Springfield, Mo. After two years with the U.S. Navy, I graduated from the University of Arkansas School of Law. My first job after law school was with Arthur Young & Co., an international accounting firm in Tulsa, Okla. I worked there as a tax attorney and earned my CPA certificate. After a few years, I returned to Springfield to practice law and teach accounting at Missouri State University. While teaching, I began my own practice, Carmi-

chael & Neal, P.C. I focus full time now on the law practice, and am a member of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association, the Missouri Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Southwest Chapter of the Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants.

My wife Marie is a real estate developer, and we are very proud of our two children, Kathryn and Joseph. Kathryn is an emergency room physician in Kansas City and Joseph is a surgeon in Springfield.

Q: What attracted you to becoming part of the MHTC?

A: In my time with the Navy, I worked with a mobile construction battalion in Japan and Vietnam, providing support for Marine operations by building roads, bridges, barracks, etc. Through those experiences, I developed a strong interest in infrastructure and learned the importance of transportation.

Q: What has been your most interesting experience as part of the Commission?

A: Every part of it has been interesting – as well as a pretty steep learning curve. It has been especially interesting to learn how multi-faceted the department is, and to watch how the financial side comes together with engineering

skills to produce world-class transportation.

Q: What have you learned about Missouri transportation?

A: I’ve learned there are so many pieces that go into a project. I had a good feeling for how important quality transportation is to Missouri, but not a full understanding of how complicated bringing the end result can be. I have learned a great deal about the process, from the early planning stages to when the bonds are sold to the time of the ribbon cutting.

Q: What has been your favorite road trip or vacation, in Missouri or otherwise?

A: Two years ago, my wife and I flew to the south of France and drove from Nice to Avignon. It was a beautiful trip. During the drive, we went through many toll booths and had quite an adventure interpreting signs that at times seemed pretty complicated. I really came to appreciate Missouri’s road system at that time, and it gave me a good feeling about what our state offers for travelers.

Rail Safety Week Reminds Missourians to Look. Listen. Live.

Gov. Jay Nixon has declared the week of April 11-17 as Rail Safety Week in Missouri. Throughout the week MoDOT, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Missouri Operation Lifesaver, railroad personnel and local law enforcement agencies will conduct positive enforcement events at highway-rail



crossings in Warrensburg, Sedalia, Jefferson City and Kirkwood. They will send a clear message to motorists and commuters about the importance of safety at crossings and the deadly risks of trespassing on railroad tracks and property.

What Are Your Thoughts?

Let us know at www.modot.org/ConnectionsSurvey

April Service Anniversaries

40 Years		
Kim A. Branson	D4	
25 years		
Kim L. Nelson	D1	
Michael A. Dutro	D1	
David L. Rhoades	D1	
Gary E. Lux	D2	
Todd L. Roth	D3	
Dennis L. Hollingsworth	D3	
Judith A. Scott	D5	
Mark R. Buscher	D5	
Nathan C. Jett	D5	
Brad O. Dake	D5	
Randall S. Bruce	D5	
Robert W. St. Gemme	D6	
Gary Ferguson	D6	
Richard J. Arnall	D7	
Charles K. Gire	D7	
Jeff A. Rogers	D8	
George E. Allen	D9	
Raymond W. Morris	D9	
Michael D. Frank	CO	
Matthew C. Woodson	CO	
Darrell J. Bax	CO	
Tina L. Grothoff	CO	
William H. Stalcup	CO	
Douglas G. Struempf	CO	
20 Years		
Ronnie W. Calhoon	D1	
Johnnie G. Minear	D2	
Ronald E. Lindsey	D3	
Robert J. Allen	D3	
Vicki A. Cragen	D3	
Mitchell S. Miller	D3	
Gary J. Burge	D4	
Rickey J. Starke	D5	
Phillip R. Thompson	D5	
Douglas E. Jones	D5	
Carol S. Kliethermes	D6	
Cheryl L. Sprogoe	D6	
Donivan A. Combs	D7	
Dirk E. Mays	D7	
Linda G. Bass	D8	
Terry S. Dry	D8	
Johnny W. Woodruff	D8	

Kelly B. Smith	D9	
David R. Blythe	D9	
Christopher T. Brock	D9	
Shirley A. Jones	D10	
Paul D. Porter	CO	
Douglas W. Fees	CO	
Joe A. Lamberson	CO	
Valerie L. Minnick	CO	
15 Years		
Robert D. Cole	D2	
Jerry W. Smith	D4	
Craig E. Rennick	D5	
David Brown	D6	
Alton L. Thomas	D6	
Portia C. Marshall	D8	
Glenn E. Breckner	D8	
Shawn B. Lalumondiere	D10	
Jim Copeland	D10	
Dale L. Heislen	CO	
10 Years		
Joseph H. Chadwick	D1	
Clinton R. Cole	D1	
George W. Woody	D1	
Jeffrey R. Alfrey	D2	
Barbie K. McGuire	D2	
David L. Waterman	D3	
Jeffrey D. Leake	D3	
Dennis R. Lorenson	D3	
Gregory A. Coffey	D3	
Johnny S. Moore	D4	
Quyet T. Dao	D4	
Stuart G. Stroud	D4	
Gregory R. Copeland	D4	
Darrell L. Patrick	D5	
Daniel J. Friel	D6	
Marguerite M. Dallas	D6	
David W. Warden	D6	
Jason A. Bell	D6	
Adam S. McRae	D7	
Clayton D. Vaught	D7	
Jeff L. Simmons	D7	
Larry E. Wilson	D7	
Keith E. Nicholas	D8	
Karen S. Mace	D8	
Stephen Barnard	D8	

Christopher P. Plaster	D8	
Billy L. McHaffie	D8	
Tony D. Dawson	D8	
Michael W. Douty	D8	
Jonathan Kemper	D9	
Leroy Brumett	D9	
Tyann E. Alexander	D9	
Dale E. Bollinger	D9	
Anthony J. Nichols	D9	
Jerry K. Yarber	D9	
James L. Bradford	D9	
Rodney L. Aldridge	D9	
Kevin M. Turner	D9	
James R. Davis	D9	
Jeffrey S. Wolff	D9	
Michael S. Beck	D9	
Gale L. Beecher	D9	
Carl W. Mosley	D9	
Rachel R. Blalock	D10	
Cindy G. Ressel	CO	
Stefan L. Denson	CO	
Clayton L. Hanks	CO	
Timothy A. Taylor	CO	
Patricia A. Suling	CO	
Steven M. Ealey	CO	
June Kelley	CO	
Brandon J. Simmons	CO	
Nicole A. Scott	CO	
5 Years		
Jeremy S. Davison	D1	
Randy L. Ryan	D2	

In Memoriam

Active			
Robert “Bobby” L. Galbreath	D5	Feb. 18	
Retirees			
Kenneth G. Huffman	D5	Feb. 11	
Charles E. Miller	D7	Feb. 12	
Harley D. Long	D7	Feb. 18	
Ray A. Grose	D9	Feb. 20	
Danny E. Graves	D3	Feb. 23	
Kenneth W. Hamilton	D1	Feb. 28	

February Retirements

Name	Location	Years of Service
Jerry Stewart	D10	5
David Doss	D1	11
John Garrett	D1	3
William Hargis	D1	12
Paul Dover	D2	20
Betty Jo Dwiggins	D2	17
Marcia Oliver	D2	23
Phillip Williams	D3	27
Glenn Crossland	D4	20
Dale Jackson	D4	31
George Conway	D6	28
Christopher Griggs	D6	33
Betty Howell	D6	16
Larry Warden	D6	30
Michael Hudson	D7	33
Jeffrey Aholt	CO	36



Central Office

Testing, Research Make MoDOT More Efficient

by Sally Oxenhandler

From animal manure to bird misters, the Organizational Results Division is constantly on the lookout for ways we can make our operations better, faster and cheaper.

Not long ago, the department created a one-stop shop within Organizational Results for testing new products. Along with that came the position of new products evaluation coordinator. Dave Amos fills that spot for MoDOT. His job helps save the districts time and money by centralizing new product testing.

“It makes good business sense,” said Amos. “We coordinate with a district to try out a product or concept at one location and then let the other districts know if we have something good they can use. It saves them the time of testing products themselves and also keeps them from buying something that may not be worthwhile.”

In the past, sales people and manufacturers would contact the district offices directly, often just showing up on the shed door to pitch their new product or piece of equipment. Now everything flows through Central Office, making the process much more efficient.

“The sales folks and manufacturers are happy with this arrangement, too, because it’s easier for them to contact us and they often get a faster response,” Amos said.

Other state departments of transportation have followed our lead and all of them now have a designated new products evaluation coordinator. Amos said that makes sharing research information and findings among states quicker and easier.

New product research and testing often involves the laboratories housed within the Construction and Materials Division. For example, OR worked through the Chemical Lab to test using hog manure as a low-cost binder in asphalt. Road crews are scheduled to place a 600-foot section of the asphalt on an outer road in the St. Louis Area District on April 1. Organizational Results will monitor the section to see how durable it is over time.

The division also teamed up with the Kansas City Area District to install a product that sprays mist to keep pigeons from roosting under bridges. So far, the bird buffer is working well,

although there have been some issues with a group leaving bird food under the bridge that may reduce its effectiveness.

“No two days are alike,” said Amos, who has worked for MoDOT for more than 20 years. “My job is not only

interesting, it’s a lot of fun and, in the end, we make things better for our customers.”

To find out more about what products have worked and what we’re testing, visit wwwi.intranet/or/Products/Index.htm.

Team Spirit



Shaun Schmitz

Blair Oaks High School accepted a proclamation from Gov. Jay Nixon’s office March 2. They were one of 11 high schools honored for Team Spirit, a program that creates and implements action plans addressing underage drinking and driving, as well as encouraging seat belt use among teens.

Black History Month Celebration



Cathy Morrison

A Black History Month Celebration was held in Jefferson City on Feb. 25. Nearly 50 employees heard Robert Clay from the Missouri Department of Revenue lead the singing of the National Negro Anthem and enjoyed a performance from the Lincoln University Dance Troupe.

MoDOT Recognizes Innovative Researcher

Dr. Carlos Sun, a professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia, is the recipient of MoDOT’s 2010 Innovative Researcher Achievement Award.

Sun received the award for evaluating the costs and benefits of MoDOT’s Motorist Assist Program, which works to keep interstate highway lanes in St. Louis and Kansas City clear of disabled vehicles. The research showed that the St. Louis Motorist Assist Program reduced secondary crashes by more than 1,000 a year and lowered congestion costs by \$1.1 million.

Dr. Sun has been on the faculty at the University of Missouri-Columbia since 2001 and currently serves as Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; Associate Director of the Transportation Infrastructure Center; and Adjunct Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering.

MoDOT Chief Engineer Kevin Keith presented the award to Sun at the department’s 2010 Research Forum held Feb. 24 in Columbia.

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Cathy Morrison

Rep. Donald Calloway (D-St. Louis) provided the keynote address. He is pictured above (left) with MoDOT’s Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division Director Rudy Nickens.

D1

Northwest

Picture This

by M. Elaine Justus

Building river bridges is one of the largest, most expensive projects a state department of transportation can do. Being state employees, we all know how complicated the process can be for something of this magnitude. How many of us, though, ever get to see the day-to-day reality of a bridge being built? Thanks to the generosity of a volunteer taxpayer, we will all be able to view the day-by-day progress of construction of a bridge.

The Amelia Earhart bridge over the Missouri River at Atchison, Kansas has been under construction since June 3, 2009. Almost every day since the first



Jon Morrow

Jon Morrow, whose family has lived next to the bridge for over a century, volunteered to photograph the progress of construction on the new Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge.



Jon Morrow

Some of the images of people working are almost sculptural.

shovel of dirt was moved, Jon Morrow, local resident and pilot, has been photographing the progress of construction. It has been fascinating looking at the project through his eyes, so we decided to make the pictures available for everyone on our web home page. By clicking the button link for the bridge, you will have the opportunity to view Jon's still photographs, with each set marked with the date it was taken. If you click the second link, it will take you to the Kansas Department of Transportation's video camera of the same project.

Jon's family has lived in the same area for over 100 years. His ancestors piloted a ferryboat across the river before there was a bridge, and his mother, Ruth, now in her ninth decade, remembers



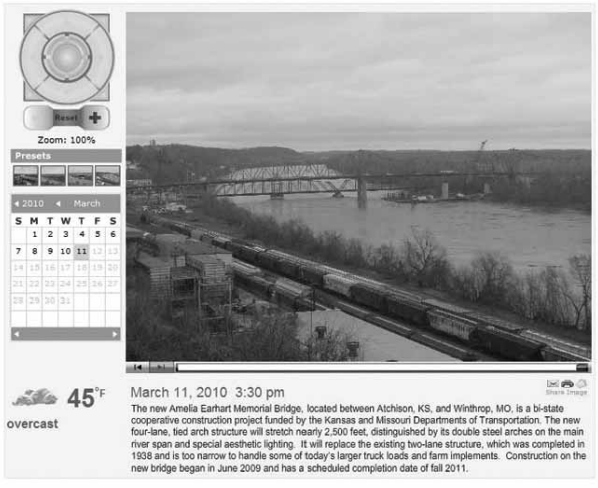
Jon Morrow

when the current bridge was dedicated in 1938. Jon, and his wife Eula, own a hangar and grass airstrip very close by where he keeps a number of aircraft, including his antique 1940s-era Piper Cub, which he flew to take a number of the photographs featured on the website.



Jon Morrow

Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge Project



March 11, 2010 3:30 pm

The new Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge, located between Atchison, KS, and Winthrop, MO, is a bi-state cooperative construction project funded by the Kansas and Missouri Departments of Transportation. The new four-lane, tied arch structure will stretch nearly 2,500 feet, distinguished by its double steel arches on the main river span and special aesthetic lighting. It will replace the existing two-lane structure, which was completed in 1938 and is too narrow to handle some of today's larger truck loads and farm implements. Construction on the new bridge began in June 2009 and has a scheduled completion date of fall 2011.

Log in | Help

MDOT KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EarthCam Webcam Technology

The Kansas Department of Transportation has a camera mounted on the Kansas side of the river to track progress. Viewers can control the direction of the camera and the zoom.

Grant Workshop A Success

by M. Elaine Justus



M. Elaine Justus

Highway Safety Director Leanna Depue came to Cameron on Feb. 17 to meet with area law enforcement.

Over twenty members of Northwest District law enforcement accepted the invitation of Highway Safety to come to Cameron on Feb. 17 and learn about the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety

and the funding opportunities and grants that are available to them. In this era of funding shortfalls, it was information much needed and appreciated.

for more info

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3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64502

Elaine Justus
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From the Roadside

by M. Elaine Justus



Holly L. Murphy

Arnold Palmer and his dog Snowflake are seen here playing fetch following the most recent Northwestern snowstorm (one of many). Snowflake is that rarely seen breed of albino Golden Retriever. We hear she has ice blue eyes.

Senior Community Relations Specialist Holly L. Murphy was driving home to Gentry County recently when she noticed this touching family scene just north of King City on U.S. 169. She took the opportunity to snap a quick

photo of the world-famous golfer Arnold Palmer playing fetch with his faithful dog Snowflake. How do we know it's Arnold Palmer? Check out the putters for arms.

D2

North Central

Work Zone Safe



April isn't the only month we put an emphasis on work zone safety. Each year the district holds two or three ad-

vanced work zone classes, depending on need, and all new field employees participate in work zone and flagger training within the first two weeks of employment.

So far this year Safety Officer Corey Besgrove, pictured right, and others

have instructed about 60 employees in the advanced training class.

Kevin Keith Visit

Chief Engineer Kevin Keith spoke to supervisors to discuss the direction of the department for the next five years.



Keith said the steps we are taking are necessary to keep our folks working,

live within our means and provide good service to our customers. He also said we are committed to delivering the

projects in the STIP, keeping our major roads in good condition and improving our minor roads.

Assistant Human Resources Director Sharon Golden also spoke to the supervisors regarding

employee performance and our MAPS process.



Top - Material Pusher; Bottom - Portable Wing Plow Rack



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Solutions at Work

The District's Tool & Equipment Challenge winners are headed to the statewide finals

Andy Willis, Donald Standley and Sam Stockdall

with their innovative solutions. These practical, efficient cost-saving ideas are sure to do well in the competition.

Tractor Mounted Mud Pump Mixing Tool

By retrofitting a mud pump mixer to mount onto a tractor three point rather than using a skid steer saves time and money and simplifies scheduling. It also provides added safety as the enclosed cab protects the operator from splashing concrete. Creators: Jeff Peters, Curtis Pegelow and Jason Neidholdt



Tractor Mounted Mud Pump Mixing Tool

Plow Lift Chain Bracket

This bracket holds the lift chain to the plow frame instead of welding the chain to the frame. It's easy, quick and no tools are needed. It improves safety, allowing easy repair on the road and saves money by not having to weld new chains on twice a season. It simplifies

work and anyone can use it. Creator: Rick Gaul



Plow Lift Chain Bracket

CMP Lifting Bracket

These brackets made from grader blades are used with a chain on any type of bucket to load, unload and place the CMP tube in the trench. It is easy to use, convenient, versatile and adaptable. It is also a safety improvement as employees no longer need to get down into the trench. Creators: Keytesville Maintenance

and movable for easy installation and removal, which saves time. It improves safety by being on a solid frame and simplifies work by pivoting for easier



CMP Lifting Bracket

In-line Asphalt Filter

The filter is an additional screen placed between the vendor's asphalt tankers and the MoDOT asphalt distributors to reduce contaminated particles from the vendor's equipment. The filter saves money and reduces employees time and wear on the unit. Creators: Keith Hartwig, Jeff Miller,

access of hydraulic fitting and installation pins. Creators: Kevin Mullins and Brian Pennock

Material Pusher

This unit pushes lost material in spots that would otherwise be hard to get to, such as under bridges. This saves from having to put a larger piece of equip-

ment on unstable banks. It is easy to handle on banks and to maneuver in tight spots, saves a lot of shoveling and is safe to operate. Creators: Mark Pickering, Roger Curl, Randy Ryan



In-line Asphalt Filter

Good luck to all the District winners in the statewide competition.

D3

Northeast

Don's Days in the District

Winter heroes, seat belts, challenges in funding and a road that's closed due to a slide were issues Director of Systems Management Don Hillis spent time on during his three day visit to the Northeast District in February.

One of the top priorities for Don was recognizing the 13 employees who were deployed to District 1 at Christmas to help out with a snow storm. "They're my heroes," he said. "They worked around the clock to help their neighbors and missed Christmas with their families to assist with a storm we believed couldn't be handled in one district without help," he commented. Employees were sent to D1 prior to the forecasted start of the storm. "It's better to move people and equipment ahead of the event because it's very difficult to mobilize a long distance during a winter event," he ex-

plained. Don said pre-deployment is not a tool we will use often, but when we do it's good to know our employees will do what it takes for all Missouri roads.

Don helped present Knox County High School students their winnings for the Battle of the Belt competition and was welcomed by doing an impromptu television interview. He told the students during the presentation that they're involvement in practicing safe driving makes the difference and encouraged them to continue their efforts.

A visit to the sign shop in D3 prompted questions about the funding challenges MoDOT faces and ended with a tour of the shop.

"Photos were not doing it justice," Don said of the slide on MO 79 that forced MoDOT to close the road last November. "It helped to be able to see the extent of the damage first hand, and I learned our folks are considering multiple options to get the road back in service," he explained.



Shannon Thompson, Lydia Brownell, Macy Rodenbaugh, Don and Chris Knapp look over the map of the area on MO 79.



8 | Susie Schutte gave Don a tour of the sign shop.



Randy Grote accepts an appreciation certificate from Don during a special recognition luncheon for the Northeast District employees who went to the Northwest District over Christmas to help fight a snow-storm.

Don presents \$250 to Cyndy Sharp of Knox County High School for their win in the Battle of the Belt competition as NE District Engineer Paula Gough expresses appreciation to the school.



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Around the District



Cortez Nelson of the Troy Project Office helped spread safe driving messages during the Tri-County Student Council Conference held at Winfield High School last month. He is pictured here with a group of students who enjoyed the interaction. Tez invited students to take the fatal vision test, sign up for the seat belt pledge and had them do a scavenger hunt for safety.



A Surprise Work Zone

It's work zone awareness week, yet there are work zones set up all over northeast Missouri throughout the year. You never know when a work zone might pop up! Crews are shown here performing necessary ditch work alongside a road. Even though the necessary work was unexpected, it required a lane drop for a couple of days.

Road Work Ahead (and behind!)



Even though much of the work over the past few months has been plowing snow, crews have replaced some culverts and performed ditch work throughout northeast Missouri. They've been taking advantage of decent weather when possible to fill potholes and get their other spring operations going.

New Work Zone Game Online!

If you remember the game "concentration," then you'll enjoy the new work zone game being offered online this summer. Pieces of a work zone message will be revealed each time you answer a question correctly. Once participants finish, they will be asked to subscribe to e-updates for road work. Districts will be promoting the game to the public during

Work Zone Awareness Week. Play the game at www.modot.org/northeast!



D4

Kansas City Area

No Shortcuts

by Kerri Lewis

With spring comes a busy construction season and the reminder that safety is the most important part of making a work zone successful. As Work Zone Awareness Week kicks off in April, MoDOT takes a proactive role in reminding motorists and workers alike to make safety the first priority when entering any work area.

Brandon Cracraft, senior construction inspector from the Stadium Project Office, knows firsthand the importance of work zone safety. In October 2008, he was faced with a life or death situation that could have been avoided had all safety precautions been followed by others working that eventful day.

“Always make sure and double check with the contractor to ensure that you are both on the same page and understand each other,” says Cracraft. “When large equipment is involved, make sure you know where it’s going to be and when it will be moved.”



Senior Construction Inspector
Brandon Cracraft

This is great advice and a hard lesson learned by Brandon. During standard inspection duties during bridge rehabilitation on Interstate 70 over Manchester, Brandon was shoved in the back, knocked to the ground, and run over by a contractor’s semi truck as it attempted to back down the length of the bridge.

The accident could have been avoided had the driver of the truck not tried to take a short cut and had adhered to MoDOT’s safety guidelines, specifically the backing policy, which is to

avoid backing when possible even if it means going a little out of your way.

The plan was for the driver to use the closed ramps to drive to the other side of the bridge but a last minute decision, lack of communication with Brandon and backing with no spotter proved to be a detrimental mistake that Brandon feels each day. With no backup alarm from the truck to notify or alert him of the backing vehicle, Brandon was run down from behind.

“My first thought was ‘oh no, I’m dead.’ But I was not going to let that happen. I believe my actions saved my life,” said Cracraft.

It was a split-second decision and a quick response that made him roll away from the truck as it was backing over his shoulder. The truck missed his head but nearly ripped off his right ear. He tore his shoulder and arm, both suffering massive soft tissue damage. He suffered a shattered shoulder blade and sheered off the bottom half of the joint of his knuckle, causing major reconstructive surgery on his right hand. The result could have been much, much worse.

“I am very appreciative of the quick response from emergency personnel, and a good word of advice is to not get hurt because the ambulance ride is rather bumpy,” laughed Cracraft. “Now that I have come back to work, I know just how lucky I am. It is nice to have a strong support system through my family, my friends and my many co-workers.”



Brandon models the shirt he wore the day of the accident, showing where the tire ripped it to shreds.

Bridge Pylon Completion Marks Milestone for Kansas City Landmark

by Jennifer Benefield

Kansas City’s skyline is undergoing a transformation as the new Christopher S. Bond Missouri River bridge continues to take shape. The final concrete pour for the last section of the bridge’s delta-shaped pylon took place March 5. As the temporary forms, struts and the black tarps used to project the concrete during cold weather are stripped away, the pylon will become even more visible. The first of 40 stay cables that radiate from the pylon and anchor to the steel girders supporting the roadway were put in place by March 12.

“This new, 316-foot-tall, cable-stay bridge will be visible from a variety of vantage points around our city for the next century,” said kcICON Project Director Brian Kidwell. “Completing the pylon marks an exciting construction milestone.”

Some interstate traffic could be crossing the new Bond Bridge as early as December 2010. The river bridge and 4.7 miles of Interstate 29/35 reconstruction is scheduled to be completed by July 2011. To learn more, visit www.kcicon.com or search “kcICON Project” on Facebook.



TOP: Paseo Corridor Constructors river bridge crews install the third of 40 stay cables March 18 on the new Christopher S. Bond Missouri River Bridge. They poured the last section of the Bond Bridge’s 316-foot, delta-shaped pylon March 5.

LEFT: Four-thousand pounds of concrete at a time are lifted in a single bucket by crane to top off the Bond Bridge’s 316-foot, delta-shaped pylon. Paseo Corridor Constructors completed the 11-hour final pour March 5.

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D5

Central

As Construction Season Begins, A Reminder to Be Safe

by Holly Dentner

In a matter of weeks, MoDOT's construction season will be in high gear. Motorists should be prepared to come upon work zones as they travel through Central Missouri.

The district faces a busy summer where bridges will be repaired or replaced as part of the Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement program, portions of major routes will be resurfaced, and big projects like the Route 50 relocation in Moniteau County and the new Route 17 bridge over the Osage River in Miller County will near completion.

Whether the highway work zone is in place for construction or general maintenance, safety for both employees and travelers must remain a high prior-



Cathy Morrison

Cars slow down as they pass through a work zone near Jefferson City.

ity. While "close calls" can be all too frequent, the terrible reality is that careless or dangerous behavior can result in injury or death.

Last summer, a contractor's crew was striping new turn lanes that had been

constructed at the Boonville High School in Cooper County. The work was a permit job that MoDOT issued to the school district and was nearly finished.

On the morning of August 14, an allegedly intoxicated motorist entered the work zone, hit construction worker Gregory Glover and killed him.

Several MoDOT employees were at the work zone that day, including Area Engineer Mike Schupp.

"I was there talking with the contractor and another MoDOT employee about

progress on the construction," said Schupp. "I didn't see it happen, but I heard the crash. It's a day I wish I could forget."

As this year's construction season begins, employees should remember to always be aware of the risks involved with working on highways. MoDOT's safety rules exist for a reason, because a work zone incident can happen anywhere and at anytime. Always pay attention to your surroundings, be alert and watch out for your coworkers.

Motorists should buckle up, slow down and pay attention to the surroundings. All actions have consequences, and in an instant you can change someone's life forever.

Climax Springs Cougars Rewarded for Battle of the Belt

Students at Climax Springs High School rose to the challenge this year during the 2009 Battle of the Belt competition. The Climax Springs Cougars were one of 27 mid-Missouri schools that competed against each other to increase safety belt use and save lives through the program.

Participating high schools launched two surprise seat belt checks at each school in October and November to measure student seat belt usage before and after an educational campaign.

Climax Springs students won the regional award for the most improved safety belt usage by increasing their

seat belt usage from 33 percent to 62.5 percent. They were recognized for their efforts on March 16, when representatives from the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety presented them with their award.

Six other Central Missouri schools will be recognized for their Battle of the Belt results over the next few weeks, including New Bloomfield High School, who had the highest overall safety belt usage at 98.6 percent.

Through education, competition and fun, the Battle of the Belt Challenge can make a difference with Missouri teens and save lives.

Climax Springs students accepted their Battle of the Belt awards during an assembly on March 16, 2010.



Carol Pleus

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Committee Formed for U.S. Route 54 Corridor Safety Improvements

by Holly Dentner

Between Route 17 and Route 179 in Cole County, there are 28 at-grade intersections along U.S. Route 54. That's a 16-mile stretch where thousands of vehicles enter or cross the highway every day.

Unfortunately, over the last six years this route has also been the site of 162 crashes at or near those intersections that resulted in 14 fatalities, 23 disabling injuries and

48 minor injuries. In a statewide study of highways with a significant number of at-grade crossings, Route 54 rated as one of the worst for the number of severe and fatal crashes.

It's a problem that MoDOT hopes to improve with help from the recently formed Route 54 advisory committee, which held its first meeting on March 5. The committee serves as a way for MoDOT to gather community input as we consider ways to improve safety at the highway intersections.

During the committee's first meeting, members heard from members of MoDOT's Highway Safety division, who talked about why these types of crashes happen.

District traffic employees described the breakdown of crashes that are occur-

ring, showing the number and type at each of the 28 intersections. Every crash from the last six years was plotted on a map for the committee.

MoDOT is committed to making system-wide safety improvements that will help the entire corridor as a whole. Approximately \$5 million in federal funding is available to make safety-related improvements to the corridor. While MoDOT can't replace each intersection with an interchange, there are lower cost, effective changes that can be made to improve safety.

At their next meeting in early April, the committee will consider the types of improvements that might be made and where they might occur.



Kristin Gerber

District Traffic Engineer Matt Myers (right) talks to a committee member while others examine a map showing the crash history of the corridor.



The committee reviewed intersection diagrams that showed the number and types of crashes over the last six years.

D6

St. Louis Area

District 6 Celebrates Success

by Kara Price

The District 6 management team recently recognized the hard work and achievements that made the district successful in 2009.

District 6 Awards and Recognition in 2009 included:

One Team Coin

- Owen Hasson, D6 maintenance superintendent
- Butch Mundle, District 3 maintenance superintendent
- Recognizes MoDOT employees who go above and beyond in illustrating MoDOT's "One Team" value.
- Districts 3 and 6 have set the standards for working as one team. These districts have blurred the lines in winter operations, concrete repair and emergency response.



Mundle (left) and Hasson (right) received the "One Team Coin" from Ed Hassinger, District 6 engineer, for going above and beyond in illustrating MoDOT's "One Team" value.

American Red Cross Lifesaver Award

- 10 Certified Trainers
- 295 individuals trained in first aid/CPR/AED
- Hosted many successful blood drives

Career and Technical Education Award/Diversity SuperHero

- Shirlyn Myles
- Show Me Safety Fair
- TRAC Camp
- Black Expo
- Construction Career Day
- Mississippi River Bridge Supplier Expo

Voice of District 6

- Formed in January 2009.
- Improve communications between employees and management.

Volunteer of the Year

- Betherny Williams, Senior Materials Inspector

Fallen Workers' Memorial

- Jim Feeney (Weldon Springs maintenance building) Walk from Weldon Springs to Jefferson City raised \$2,400.
- Ride for Remembrance raised \$6,000.
- St. Louis Cardinals (three) ball games raised \$4,015.

Charitable Campaign

- District 6 employees donated \$27,131.92, which is \$28.29 per employee.
- MoDOT raised more money than any other state agency.

Performance Plus Incentive Programs

- The Design department met its target in the first, second and third quarters.
- Met the annual statewide target for Tier 3 incentive.
- The Construction department met its target in the following quarters:
 - First Quarter - St. Clair, St. Peters and Fenton
 - Second Quarter - Festus, St. Clair, Bellefontaine, Chesterfield, O'Fallon and Fenton
 - Third Quarter - Festus, Mehlville, Hampton, St. Clair and Fenton
 - Fourth Quarter - Festus, St. Clair, Belleville and Fenton

Injury Reduction Incentive Programs

- Performance Plus (January to June - South Jefferson County and Motorist Assist
- Safety Pays (July to December) - Lighting, Troy Bridge, Preventive Maintenance departments and Beaufort, Eureka, Cedar Hill, Wentzville, Desoto, Gray Summit and Weldon Springs maintenance buildings!

President's Circle Award

- 2009 Top 10 Seller
- Generated \$71,000

Women in Transportation Member of the Year

- Jeanne Olubogun, traffic operations engineer

Shirley Norris Recognitions

- Shirley Norris, transportation project manager
- February 4, 2010 was declared "Shirley Norris Day" in St. Louis County!

Perpetual Pavement Award

- Route 47 - Area Teams for South Jefferson and Franklin counties

ACEC Engineering Excellence Award

- Interstate 70 at Route 94 - St. Charles Area Team
- Chouteau/Route 100 - St. Louis City Area Team

Concrete Council Quality Concrete Award

- Interstate 55 Overpasses - St. Louis City Area Team

ACEC and APCA Awards

- Route 61 - Area Teams for South Jefferson and Franklin counties

2009 No MOre Trash! Bash Winners

- District 6 led MoDOT with the most trash bags collected.
- Adopt-A-Highway volunteers picked up the most bags (3,140) statewide.
- Employees picked up the most bags (16,523) statewide.
- Broadway maintenance building



collected the most bags in the district!

- Successful media event with large participation from community and elected officials to pick up trash along Missouri interstates.

Solutions at Work Submissions

- Utility Basket - Joe Amos, Wentzville maintenance building
- Work Zone Simulation - Ken Cherry and Brandon Anderson, Normandy maintenance building
- Multi-Use Bay Curtains - Ken Cherry and Brandon Anderson, Normandy maintenance building
- Bridge Barrier to Discourage

- Transients - Larry Doelling, St. Louis City maintenance superintendent
- Angle Drill for Bridge Drains - Robert Hawkins, Bridge maintenance
- Bridge Spraying Trailer - Robert Hawkins - Bridge maintenance
- Lube Cube Containment - Rich Jones
- Landscaping

- Signpost Straightener - Erick Price, Sunset Hills maintenance building
- Pelican Sweeper Modification - Gary Wessel

2009 Tool and Equipment Challenge Winners

- Pin Holder - Ken Cherry, Normandy maintenance building
- Ditching Bucket - Tony Boyster and Jessie Scherrer, Desoto maintenance building
- Seal Box - Teri Feller and Earl Kelly - Cedar Hill maintenance building

Fast Independent Strike Teams

- January 2009 - Ice Storm Response in District 10
- June to August 2009 - Route 21 Slide Repair
- July 2009 - MLB All-Star Game
- July 2009 - Interstate 44 Emergency Pavement Repair
- Winter 2009 - Event Rating System
- December 2009 - Snow Storm Response in District 2
- Christmas 2009 - Snow Storm Response in District 1
- February - Snow Storm Response in Districts 9 and 10.

ARRA Projects Designed and Awarded - \$155.4 million

- Interstate 70/Memorial Drive
- Interstate 55
- Interstate 44
- Route 141
- Route 364
- Route 67/AC ADA

43 ARRA Projects

- Valued at \$62.6 million by March 2
- Deadline - Local Roads Staff

Mississippi River Bridge

- Designed and awarded on time
- Main span at Missouri Approach awarded on time

- On Track for Date (2014) Open to Traffic

Interstate 64 Awards

- Focus St. Louis - "What's Right With the Region" Award, Regional Cooperation
- Progress 64

- West - Excellence in Community Development Awards
- Missouri/Kansas American Concrete Pavers Association - Excellence in Concrete Paving Award

Other Recognitions

- Survey Team
- Utility Team
- ADA Team

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D7

Southwest

Solar Panels Generate Power, Savings for District

by Mendi Allgood and Wendy Brunner-Lewis

District 7 continually strives to do things better and cheaper with its high-way projects. Now it's doing that with the district office's electricity.

Zinniel Electric of Sleepy Eye, Minn., installed a solar panel system on the district office roof in late February. The system is a 16,500-watt grid-tie solar system. The installation did not require penetrations to be made through the roof, therefore eliminating the possibility of future leaks. The system simply sits on the roof.

A "grid-tie" system is designed to sell power back to the utility company. This creates a credit toward utility

costs incurred by the district building, resulting in money saved by MoDOT.

Zinniel Electric won the bid for the project at a cost of \$100,100, substantially below the anticipated cost of about \$135,000. When questioned about potential delays in installing the system due to weather and cold temperatures, Tim Zinniel replied, "This Missouri weather is like springtime to us, so no problem!"

Click on the Enphase Energy button at www.modot.org/southwest/ to see the status of the system and how much



power is generated.



Wendy Brunner-Lewis

The energy generated by the solar panels gets credited toward MoDOT's utility costs.

Upgrading Route 71 to Interstate Standards Continues

Work to upgrade Route 71 to interstate standards is in high gear now that the weather is nicer. APAC-Missouri, Inc., is building interchanges in Barton, Vernon, Bates and Cass counties to eliminate the current crossovers.



Lori Marble



Lori Marble



Lori Marble

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Safety Pays for District 7 Employees



A District 7 crew safely cuts trees and brush this winter.

The first six-month cycle of the new Safety Pays incentive program was a good one for the 19 buildings in District 7 that had zero OSHA-recordable incidents.

Eligible employees in the following buildings received the first-tier incentive amount of \$150:

Neosho	Jenkins
Longview	Monett
Special Crews-South	Appleton City
El Dorado Springs	Nevada
Collins	Rich Hill
Golden City	Sheldon
Greenfield	Liberal
Stockton	Sarcoxie
Anderson	Signing
Cassville	

The Safety Pays program recognizes and rewards employees for safe work behaviors. Safety Pays aims to reduce work-related injuries and associated workers' compensation costs.

Congratulations to the crews for making the first go-round of Safety Pays a success!

D8

Springfield Area

Work Zone Awareness Starts with 60/65 Project

by Angela Eden

The pace of “flyover” bridge work and paving will pick up considerably by late April and early May on the Route 60/65 interchange reconstruction in Springfield – a project that underscores the importance of MoDOT’s Work Zone Awareness Week April 19-23.

The “drive smart in work zones” message fits hand-in-glove with the Springfield region’s largest and most complicated project. Each day, 125,000 cars travel through the 60/65 work zone.

Senior Construction Inspector Ben Cummings has definite thoughts about the best way to negotiate the Route 60/65 project, especially at night when most lane and ramp closings are scheduled because of heavy daytime traffic.

Selected Major Projects in 2010

- Route 65 in Springfield – Six-laning between I-44 and Route 60
- Route 60 and National Avenue in Springfield – Bridge widening, converting to Diverging Diamond Interchange
- Route 65 between Springfield and Ozark – Pavement repairs and resurfacing
- I-44 in Springfield – Rehabilitation of bridges over National, Grant and Broadway avenues
- Route 5 in Lebanon – Five-laning
- Route 5 north of Lebanon – Building a Shared Four-Lane (alternating passing lanes)
- Route 76/Bus. 65 Branson/Holliester – Building new bridge, rehab existing bridge over Lake Taney-como
- Taney County Route F near Branson – Resurfacing between Route 65 and Route 160
- Webster County Route A south of Marshfield – Pavement repairs and resurfacing
- Route 125 east of Springfield – Replacing bridge over James River (Safe & Sound)
- Laclede County Route A/C at Phillipsburg – Rehabilitating bridge over I-44 (Safe & Sound)
- Greene County Route UU north of Bois D’Arc – Rehabilitating bridge over Clear Creek (Safe & Sound)

“Get off the cell phone, pay attention to your driving and pay attention to the driving of others,” Cummings said.

Drivers must take responsibility for driving safely through any work zone, District Traffic Engineer Joe Rickman said. Slow down and expect the unexpected, he said.

However, MoDOT crews and contractors must do their part to ensure work zone safety by setting up clearly marked work zones.

“We should show clear guidance when installing sign packages,” he said. “Are the signs set up properly and are they clean?”

The challenges of driving through the Route 60/65 project include lane shifts and narrowed lanes right next to concrete barriers. There’s little margin for driver error.

More lane shifts will be needed in the near future, Cummings said. One will involve shifting Route 65 traffic to the median south of Route 60, allowing traffic to be moved away from where crews will be working to build new acceleration and deceleration ramps.

The Route 60/65 project is on target to have the two new directional, or “fly-over,” ramps completed and open to traffic before Thanksgiving. That will provide significant congestion relief at the interchange after only 18 months of construction. It will take until October 2012 to complete the rest of the project.

The Route 60/65 reconstruction is costing \$57.1 million. In addition to building two flyover ramps, the project involves building bridges over the BNSF Railroad tracks and significant work on four other bridges. The prime contractor is Archer Western Contractors of Illinois.

*“Talkin’ Transportation”
Call-In Radio Show*

KWTO 560 AM, Springfield

10-10:50 a.m. Wednesdays

radiospringfield.com

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Bob Edwards

D8 at Work

1. Patching potholes on Chestnut Expressway (Bus. Loop 44) in Springfield are Senior Maintenance Workers Greg Kensinger, left, Brian Lambert, right, and Randy Patterson, at truck, all from the Sunshine shop.

2. Marshfield Maintenance Worker John Dudley runs a backhoe to break out a deteriorated drain pipe on Webster County Route A south of Marshfield ahead of a project to resurface the roadway.

3. Surveying the highway right-of-way line for an upcoming project to widen Route 13 between Branson West and Kimberling City are, from left, Land Surveyor Bobby Newman, Sign Crew Senior Maintenance Worker Dean Hudspeth, Sign Crew Maintenance Worker Robert Fox and Land Survey Supervisor John Avers.



4. Working on a solution to prevent future erosion around two new culverts to be installed in Jones Creek underneath Dallas County Route B near Conway are, from left, Senior Highway Designers Tyler Goodwyn and Aaron Jaeger and Design Technician Josh Dugan.

D9

South Central

Tool and Equipment Challenge Winners

District winners of the 2009-2010 Tool and Equipment Challenge were recently announced. This event challenges participants to identify and share their best innovations for completing field operations faster, better and cheaper.

According to District General Services Manager Jacky Traw, Challenge provides an outlet for employees to make a significant difference. "If there was ever a time in the history of MoDOT, now is the time the creativity and innovation of our employees is needed. It is those who are looking at the work being accomplished and how it's being accomplished that are making a difference. As resources become less available, these, and other solutions, become critical in achieving the desired results," said Traw.

The emphasis areas for this year are snow and ice response, preventative pavement maintenance and drainage. District winners will compete at the Innovation Challenge Showcase in March.

Treatment Tower System

This system is designed to add beet juice or brine to salt, after it has been loaded into the spreader. A full 10-wheeler load of salt can be treated with this system, by one person, in less than five minutes. This innovation was designed by Maintenance Worker Stoney Dailey and Senior Maintenance Worker Greg Buckner from Winona.

Pre-Treatment System for Salt



This innovation uses a conveyor system to pre-treat salt at storage bins. A spray system was added to the salt elevators



to spray beet juice into salt going into the domes. This was designed by Senior Equipment Technician John Wood, Senior Maintenance Worker Paul Butler and Maintenance Supervisor James Bradford from Willow Springs.

Modified Trailer

The Houston submission is a modified trailer to haul temporary bridge deck and fabricated deck. This trailer allows for the installation of a temporary bridge deck when installing a replacement culvert pipe; allowing traffic to flow. System design by Senior Maintenance Worker Harold Merritt, Senior Maintenance Worker Travis Sanders, Senior Maintenance Worker Eddie Cole,



and Maintenance Supervisor Greg Van Horn.

Tabbing Stick

In an effort to reduce back strains and speed the process of applying temporary payment markers during pavement repairs, the Winona group designed a tabbing stick that will eliminate the need to bend over while putting down tabs on the highway. This tool was designed by Senior Maintenance Worker Greg Buckner from Winona.



Plastic Pipe Strap

This tool was designed to twist plastic culverts pipes together. It works on the same principle as a filter wrench, but is used with two people; one to hold, one to turn. The more pressure that is applied, the tighter it grips the pipe. This tool was designed by Senior Maintenance Worker Kerry Grogan, Senior Maintenance Worker Bernie Cook, Senior Maintenance Worker Buddy Terrill, Senior Maintenance Worker Ray Thomas and Maintenance Supervisor Steve Mayberry from Summersville.



South Central Crews Respond to Rockslide

The South Central District has consistently demonstrated teamwork and the belief that MoDOT is one team, with one mission. This value was demonstrated again in February, as D9 crews responded to a rockslide in Central Missouri.

The D9 Northern Weekend Maintenance Crew worked quickly to aid the Central District with a rockslide that occurred on northbound Route 63 on Feb. 21. An estimated 100 truckloads of debris fell; covering all three lanes of Route 63. D9 crews provided emergency response support and a loader to help clear the roadway for traffic. According to Maintenance Superin-



tendent Charlie Schroyer, the weekend crew demonstrated D9's flexibility and responsiveness. "This crew saw no district boundaries. They responded without waiting," said Schroyer.

Senior Project Drives Home Texting and Driving Message

At the start of the school year, Willow Springs High School senior BreAnna Newman chose "Texting and Driving" as the topic of her senior project. This Project requires students to showcase their skills with a research paper, a related physical product and a presentation.

The culmination of Newman's Senior Project will be an all-school assembly held between prom and graduation, featuring video from a mock accident conducted on March 3. In the "accident," a student is attempting to text and drive when she loses control of the vehicle; killing the passenger. The video produced from this clearly shows the role texting played in the "accident" and the use of the Jaws of Life to remove the occupants.

Newman worked closely with her project mentor, South Central Regional Coalition Coordinator Kelly Martin, to complete the exercise. According to

English and Journalism Teacher Marty Spence, the partnership was a success. "BreAnna has done an exceptional job collaborating with the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety to create a senior project that, not only serves as a capstone to her educational experi-



ence at Willow Springs High School, but also helps save lives. This type of project exemplifies the purpose of the senior

project. It's a project that synthesizes learning with community betterment," said Spence.

According to Newman, the research has taught her a valuable lesson about texting and driving. "This was a great eye-opening experience, for me to see how dangerous texting and driving really is. I am so glad that I got the privilege to team up with MCRS and work hand-in-hand with the Arrive Alive campaign," said Newman.

Ken Fiebelman Ozark Heritage Memorial Highway Dedication

More than 200 attended the Ken Fiebelman Ozark Heritage Memorial Highway Dedication on Feb. 22. The ceremony named a portion of Route 72 for former State Rep. Ken Fiebelman.

Speakers at the ceremony included D9 Engineer Tom Stehn, Sen. Frank Bar-nitz, Rep. Jason Smith, Rep. Don Koller and Rep. Jerry McBride. In addition to the highway naming, Rep. Fiebelman was presented with a Proclamation of Support from city of Salem Mayor Gary Brown.

Rep. Fiebelman was visibly moved by the ceremony, celebrating his contribu-

tions to Missouri politics and heritage. "My lifetime mission has been to improve the quality of life for rural Missouri and its people. Thanks for taking the time to be here today. It is very much appreciated. God bless each one of you," he said.



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D10

Southeast

Construction Season Kicks Off

After months of winter weather, District 10 welcomes spring and the start of another construction season. With this shift in seasons, motorists can expect to see many new improvements getting under way and the completion of several projects that were started last year. More improvements mean travelers will soon have a smoother, safer ride, but it also means more work zones.

Southeast District projects scheduled to begin this construction season include:

Route 53 in Butler and Dunklin Counties

Motorists should expect one-lane work zones as crews perform paving and shoulder work from Campbell to Holcomb and from Qulin to Poplar Bluff. Traffic will be controlled with a pilot car. Work began this March and is expected to be completed in June.

Route 67 in Wayne County

Traffic could begin using the new Route 67 near Greenville as early as this June. This move will involve two bypasses, one at the north edge of Greenville and another at Route A.

Route 34 in Wayne County

This is a D10 ARRA project that is under way, with shoulder work beginning on Route 34 in Wayne County in April. Asphalt paving is expected to begin this summer. Drivers should expect delays from Silva to Piedmont.

Route W in Cape Girardeau County

Route W resurfacing and shoulder improvements will extend from Lexington Ave. to LaSalle Ave. Drainage structures near County Road 618 and County

Road 620 will also be improved. As drainage work is completed, the roadway will be closed for approximately two weeks per bridge. The closures will not occur at the same time.



Work on the River Aux Vases bridge began this March. The bridge will remain closed as work is under way. A detour route around Interstate 55 and Route P will be marked with signs.

Route B in Ste. Genevieve County

Work to replace the River Aux Vases bridge in Ste. Genevieve County began March 1, and is expected to be completed this June. The resurfacing and widening work, which will extend from Route 32 to Route F, began March 8. During this portion of the project, the route will be reduced to one lane with a 10-foot width restriction. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2010.

Interstate 57 in Mississippi and Scott Counties

Resurfacing and shoulder work on Interstate 57 in Mississippi and Scott counties could begin as early as this April. Improvements will extend from County Road 401 near Charleston to Route AA near Miner, as well as from

east of Route B to Route AA. Lane closures will be necessary at times. The project is expected to be completed this fall.

Interstate 55 in Cape Girardeau and Perry Counties

Work to improve Interstate 55 is expected to begin this spring. The project includes grading and paving in the northbound lanes from the Route 61 interchange at Fruitland to the Route B interchange near Biehle. The northbound on and off ramps at Route E will be closed as work is under way. Completion is expected in fall 2010.

Route 25/77/AB Roundabout in Cape

Girardeau County

Clearing work for the Blomeyer roundabout at the intersection of Routes 25, 77 and the future Route AB began March 3. Route 77 may be closed during certain stages of work. However, the closure cannot occur prior to May 2010, and the route cannot be closed for more than 45 days. Route 25 will remain open at all times. The project is expected to be completed this fall.

Safe and Sound 2010

With most of the quick-start bridges completed, D10 is beginning a rigorous design-build schedule. In 2010, the program will include 25 bridge improvements in the Southeast District. Most of these projects will involve a road closure. For more information about D10's Safe and Sound program, please visit www.modot.org/southeast/safeandsound.htm.

In addition to beginning these new projects, I-55 work in Pemiscot and New Madrid counties will also wrap up this construction season.

I-55 resurfacing from Route 60 at Sikeston to the Arkansas state line began last year. With around 50 percent of the project finished, work to complete the remainder of the project is expected to begin this summer.

Contractors will begin the second half of the I-55 project in Pemiscot County this April. Resurfacing work will extend from Route U to the Arkansas state line.

For more information on Southeast District construction projects, please visit www.modot.org/southeast.

D10 Joins Realty to Roads Blitz

D10 is joining in MoDOT's efforts to raise money for more roadway projects by selling unneeded properties. For more information about the four Southeast District properties in the Realty to Roads blitz this April, please contact Senior Right of Way Technician Michael Smith at (573) 472-5286.



This 11.4-acre site is located six miles northwest of Poplar Bluff and bordered by both Goose Creek and Cane Creek. It is buildable with no environmental restrictions and an ideal site for recreational use.



With its eight-bay, concrete-block building, the 3.26-acre Campbell maintenance facility has potential for commercial use. The facility is located on Route 62 in Dunklin County.



Located in Butler County, this 2.81-acre site lies between the old Route 67 and the bypass south of Poplar Bluff. The site could be used for commercial development due to its visibility from Route 67 and East Outer Road.



The 42.2-acre Self Fen site is located on Route 67 in Madison County. This property could be used as a recreational site.

D10 Retirees



Randall Robbins retired March 1 after 32 years with MoDOT. Robbins was a maintenance crew leader.



David Tropf retired March 1 after 26 years with MoDOT. Tropf was a maintenance crew leader.

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Connections

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Commissioners Farber and Gach Named Chair, Vice-Chair

New leadership was named at the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission meeting March 10 in Jefferson City.

Rudy Farber, Neosho, took over as chairman for a one-year term. The former chairman, David Gach, St. Joseph, is serving as vice-chairman.

Farber was appointed to the commission in March 2007. Gach has served since 2005.

"With the funding challenges facing transportation at the state and federal level, we on the commission have a great deal of work to do," Farber said. "However, I'm excited to lead

the commission, and I look forward to working with the leaders and citizens of Missouri to determine the future for transportation in our state."

Farber is chairman of the board of Community Bank & Trust in Neosho. Gach is owner and president of a diesel repair business in St. Joseph. He also manages a land excavation company and owns commercial property and farmland.

Other commission members are Duane Michie, Hayti; Grace Nichols, St. Charles; Joe Carmichael, Springfield; and Stephen Miller, Kansas City.



Rudy Farber



David Gach

What Have I Done?

New Work Zone Campaign Reminds Motorists to Pay Attention

by Melissa Black

Take your eyes off the road for a second and you could end up in a crash – hit a tree, hit a car, hit a sign, or hit the ditch. If you are in a work zone you could hit a barrel, a cone or even another human being.

As highway construction season gears up, MoDOT will be running a new television spot aimed at distracted drivers.

"What Have I Done" is gruesome, but it's designed to make drivers think.

The video features a motorist after he's been in a crash in a work zone – time has seemed to slow down for him. Moments before he was driving along and calling his family to say he's encountered some road work, but not to worry, because he'll "fly right through

it." After getting out of his vehicle in a daze he walks over to where he's hit something in the work zone and discovers it's a person. It ends with a reminder to all, "Don't Barrel Through Work Zones."

"Every year we try to educate motorists about the importance of paying attention and obeying the signs in work zones," says Don Hillis, director of System Management. "For the last couple of years though we've had increases in both work zone fatalities and injuries, and it's time motorists realize how one driving error in a work zone can be fatal."

In 2009, 13 people were killed and 670 were injured in work zones. Since 2000, 15 MoDOT employees have been killed in the line of duty.

The top five contributing circumstances for work zone crashes in 2009 were inattention, following too closely, im-

proper lane usage/change, driving too fast for conditions and failure to yield. In 2009, seven out of ten motorists killed in traffic crashes were not wearing a seat belt.

Besides the new TV spot, MoDOT will remind motorists of the need to drive safely in work zones around the state with radio and internet banner ads, as well as fuel pump tops at various gas stations and messages on the department's changeable message boards.

Work zones this year will include more than 250 bridges scheduled for construction under MoDOT's Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program, a statewide effort to repair or replace more than 800 of Missouri's worst bridges by the end of 2013. Statewide, work continues on a number of economic stimulus projects, as well as the Better Roads, Brighter Future program that is improving 5,600 miles of roadway by the end of 2011.

